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COMPANY 6-F

**BERKS COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
STATE GUARD
RESERVE**

OF REHRSBURG, PA.



DEAR LAND OF ALL MY LOVE

Long as thine Art shall love true love,
Long as thy Science truth shall know,
Long as thine Eagle harms no Dove,
Long as thy Law by law shall grow,
Long as thy God is God above,
Thy brother every man below,
So long, dear Land of all my love,
Thy name shall shine, thy fame shall glow!

—Sidney Lanier

COMPANY 6-F BERKS COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA 1959
STATE GUARD RESERVE OF REHRERSBURG, PA.

by
John L. Stambaugh
Rehrersburg, Pa.

30 May 1959

A brief history of the Rehrersburg, Pa. unit of the Berks County State Guard Reserve during World War Two. The history includes a roster of men and officers of the unit.

The function of the unit was to serve as a home guard during the early days of the war, similar to the militia units of earlier days.

Stambaugh, John L.

Company 6-F Berks County Pennsylvania
State Guard Reserve of Rehrersburg, Pa.
John L. Stambaugh, 1959.

10 p. 23 cm

A brief history of the Pennsylvania
State Guard Reserve (militia/home-
guards) during WW Two

I.Berks Co.,Pa. History I.Rehrers-
burg,Pa. History II Pennsylvania
Militia. III. Title

IV. World War Two, History of

1899094

F O R E W O R D

This book was written to commemorate the activities of the patriotic citizens of western Berks County who volunteered to serve in Company 6-F, Pennsylvania State Guard Reserves, following the infamous bombing of Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Military Affairs
HARRISBURG

May 25, 1943

Captain John L. Stambaugh
Rehrersburg, Penna.

Dear Captain:

Pursuant to certification of the Mayor of Reading, the Sheriff of Berks County, and the Chairman of the County Council of Defense, you are authorized to organize a Company of the Pennsylvania State Guard Reserve in Berks County. Your Company will be designated No. 6-F.

Inclosed is copy of Table of Organization, together with two copies of Muster Roll. Both copies of Muster Roll will be signed by the volunteers and one copy, certified to by you, returned to this office. At your earliest convenience you should also recommend to this office the name and address of your First and Second Lieutenants for issuance of commission.

Also inclosed is copy of mimeographed letter giving functions and duties of the State Guard Reserve, for your information.

Very truly yours,

R. M. VAIL
Brig. General

Incls.

The Governor
of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Minute Men



TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

KNOW YE, That reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and abilities of J O H N L . S T A M B A U G H

I do appoint him C A P T A I N in the
Pennsylvania Minute Men to rank as such from the 15TH
day of M A Y, nineteen hundred and F O R T Y - T H R E E

He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of the office to which he is appointed by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging.

AND I DO strictly charge and require all Officers and Men under his command to be obedient to his orders as an officer of his grade and position. And he is to observe and follow such orders and regulations, from time to time, as he shall receive from me, or the future Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or the General or other Superior Officers set over him, according to the rules and regulations and government of the Pennsylvania Minute Men.

THIS CERTIFICATE to continue in force during the pleasure of the Governor for the time being, or until relieved by competent orders.

DONE AT THE CITY OF HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA , this 9TH
day of F E B R U A R Y, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and F O R T Y - F O U R

R. W. Taft
Adjutant General.

Edmund Martin
Governor.

"THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVE DEFENSE CORPS AUXILIARY"

A Summarization

Early in 1941, when the Pennsylvania National Guard was mustered into active Federal service, the Pennsylvania Defense Corps was organized to protect the internal security of the Commonwealth during the war years.

On 7 December 1941, the Pennsylvania Defense Corps was mobilized by order of the Governor of Pennsylvania, and was placed under the direct control of the State Adjutant General to protect strategic bridges, highways, tunnels, industries and airports within the Commonwealth. This force was provided uniforms, arms, ammunition and equipment by the State and further, was paid from State funds.

Their most notable performance was during the Period 7 December, 1941 until 31 March 1942. In this period the force, later to be renamed the Pennsylvania State Guard, operated throughout the State with approximately 2,000 officers and men on active duty. Following this time municipalities, utilities and industries employed their own security forces to protect vital interests thus lessening the duties and activities of the Reserve Defense Corps to the point that they were placed on a stand-by alert basis.

Not being an active duty force did not lessen the need for such an organization. In fact, the Governor and Adjutant General supplemented the Reserve Defense Corps with an auxiliary group known as the Pennsylvania Reserve Defense Corps Auxiliary. These units were formed primarily by rod and gun club organizations throughout the State and at their inception were termed "Minute-Men." The officers of this force were appointed by the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania pursuant to certification by the Mayor of their respective communities, the County Sheriff and the County Civil Defense Director.

The Reserve Defense Corps Auxiliary table of organization allocated a strength of three officers and sixty-three enlisted men to a company. Each individual provided his own arms and ammunition. Uniforms were not provided or worn but the Auxiliary Force was officially identified by a blue colored armband superimposed with a yellow outline of Pennsylvania in which the initials P.R.D.C.AUX. were imprinted thereon.

Deprived from existing records on file in the Department of Military Affairs, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the following chronological and historical report on the Berks County units of the Pennsylvania Reserve Defense Corps Auxiliary is presented:

Pennsylvania Reserve Defense Corps Auxiliary

25 May 1943: Brigadier General R. M. Vail, Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, authorized the following units for Berks County:

- * Company 6-B comprising of 3 Officers and 63 Enlisted Men at Kutztown, Pa., commanded by: Captain Harold A. Naus.
- * Company 6-C comprising of 3 Officers and 63 Enlisted Men at Hamburg, Pa., commanded by: Captain Eugene H. Byers.
- * Company 6-D comprising of 3 Officers and 63 Enlisted Men at Boyertown, Pa., commanded by: Captain Harold F. Fegley.
- * Company 6-E comprising of 3 Officers and 63 Enlisted Men at Birdsboro, Pa., commanded by: Captain John K. North.
- * Company 6-F comprising of 3 Officers and 63 Enlisted Men at Rehrersburg, Pa., commanded by: Captain John L. Stambaugh.

* The above named Officers were unanimously recommended for their commands by Harry F. Menges, Mayor of Reading; Walter B. Ravel, Sheriff of Berks County; and John S. Giles, Chairman of Berks County Civil Defense.

24 June 1943: The State Property Officer, Colonel John E. Shade, provided all Berks County Auxiliary Defense Corps companies with the necessary PRDC Auxiliary armbands as a means of identification. These were issued on the basis of strength as reported on recent muster-rolls.

10 July 1943: Notification was received by the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania that Captain John L. Stambaugh, commanding Company 6-F at Rehrersburg, was about to be inducted into the Armed Forces of the United States. It was recommended that 1st Lt. George E. Troutman, Stouchsburg, Berks County, Pa., be appointed to the command of the company.

Existing regulations required that each company of the PRDC Auxiliary would provide certified copies of the Muster-Roll to the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania and to the governing authorities within each county in Pennsylvania. Moreover, it demanded that subsequent additions and vacancies within each company be properly recorded and directed to the Adjutant General and to the County as necessary.

All functions of both the Pennsylvania State Guard (PRDC) and its auxiliary ceased with the termination of hostilities in World War II.

It is well to mention that the Auxiliary Corps functioned without pay or allowances from the Federal Government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In 1950 the Pennsylvania State Guard again reorganized. The machinery was set in motion to fill the ranks as units of the Pennsylvania National Guard departed for active military service during the Korean conflict.

The mission of the State Guard during this period was to defend the civilian populace against air attack and invasion, to augment the Pennsylvania State Police and other civilian police forces in time of insurrection, tumult or riot, assist local relief disaster organizations in time of natural or war disasters, guard priority installations, and protect communications and transportation facilities.

Although the complete machinery was constructed to put the State Guard in motion it was contingent on further mobilization of National Guard units within the Commonwealth. In effect, the Pennsylvania State Guard operation never reached active participation because the Department of Defense did not call some 6,000 officers and men of the Pennsylvania National Guard into the Korean conflict.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE GUARD RESERVE

Company No. 6-F, Berks Co.

Company No. 6-F P.S.G.R. was activated May 25, 1943, with headquarters in the Keystone Band Hall in Rehrersburg, Pa.

The original Headquarters Company consisted of the following personnel:

Captain

John L. Stambaugh

1st Lieutenant

George E. Troutman

2nd Lieutenant

Harvey C. Stambaugh

1st Sergeant

J. Price Barner

Company Clerk

Corporal Lester W. Keener

Mess Sergeant

John Unger

Sergeant

Warren E. Klopp

Sergeant

Ralph Kline

Shortly after Co. 6-F was activated Captain John L. Stambaugh received his "Greetings" from Uncle Sam.

On July 15, 1943, he was inducted into the U. S. Army at New Cumberland, Pa. A farewell outing in his honor was held on the Sunday preceding this date, at Klopp's School near Stouchsburg.

With a wonderful turnout and beautiful weather the Company spent a delightful afternoon together.

The Keystone Band, of Rehrersburg, under the direction of Ralph C. Klopp, presented an appropriate concert for the occasion.

Mess Sergeant John Unger served the Company delicious bean soup. Refreshments were plentiful, a wonderful spirit of good fellowship prevailed and the memories of this day still linger in the minds of the volunteers of Co. 6-F, P.S.G.R.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 6-F, P.S.G.R.
Rehrersburg, Pa.

Captain
George E. Troutman

1st Lieutenant
Harvey Stambaugh

2nd Lieutenant
J. Price Barner

1st Sergeant
Warren E. Klopp

Company Clerk
Corporal Lester W. Keener

Mess Sergeant
John Unger

Sergeant
Harold Spatz

Sergeant
Ralph Kline

NOTE: We regret that we were unable to include Captain George E. Troutman's commission issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs. Other pertinent records also may have been lost which should have become a part of this record.

Company 6-F

PENNSYLVANIA STATE GUARD RESERVE

Rehrersburg, Pa.

SQUAD No. 1

1. Ray Weidner
2. Harry Beidler
3. William Shade
4. James Shalters, Jr.
5. Morris Strause
6. Ernest Ressler
7. Morris Becker
8. Russell Brown
9. Morris Keeney
10. LeRoy Oxenreider
11. Stanley Kissling
12. Grant Troutman

SQUAD No. 3

1. Warren Hoover
2. Ralph Balthaser
3. Alvin Morgan
4. Clarence Schneck
5. Raymond Gassert
6. Aaron Killmer
7. Woodrow Weidman
8. Raymond Troutman
9. Clarence Royer
10. Richard Moyer
11. Harry Zeller
12. Isaac Althouse

SQUAD No. 2

1. Donald Ruth
2. Raymond Shalters
3. Stanton Clay
4. George Bickel
5. Paul Klopp
6. Edward Lutz
7. Ernest Hardick
8. LeRoy Schoener
9. Landis Deck
10. Herbert Stoudt
11. Arthur Stum
12. Russell Wartluft

SQUAD No. 4

1. Gerald Kessler
2. Stanley Luckenbill
3. Joseph Sonnon
4. Fred Oberly
5. Calvin Muth
6. Lester Shalters
7. Frank Miller
8. Harold Ream
9. Lewis Long
10. Claude Miller
11. Stanley Moyer
12. Lloyd Engle

The data compiled in this book was furnished through the courtesy of the following persons:

George E. Troutman

Harvey C. Stambaugh

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Military Affairs.

The editor wishes to express his sincere thanks for their wonderful cooperation.

Signed:

John L. Stambaugh

Published May 30, 1959

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